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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

ROBERT E. BUSHNELL & LAW FIRM 2029 K STREET NW SUITE 600 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1004

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NGOC YEN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1734

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549.594	09/19/2005	Zhikuan Wang	P59008	7722

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR PRODUCTION OF ALKALI METAL CHROMATES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	05/18/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN <u>THREE MONTHS</u> FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. <u>THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.</u> SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

#### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

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B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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### Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE

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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address) have its own certificate of mailing or transmission. 02/18/2011 Certificate of Mailing or Transmission ROBERT E. BUSHNELL & LAW FIRM I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below. 2029 K STREET NW SUITE 600 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1004 (Depositor's name (Signature (Date APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 7722 10/549.594 09/19/2005 Zhikuan Wang P59008 TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR PRODUCTION OF ALKALI METAL CHROMATES DATE DUE ISSUE FEE DUE PUBLICATION FEE DUE PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE TOTAL FEE(S) DUE APPLN, TYPE SMALL ENTITY YES \$755 \$300 \$0 \$1055 05/18/2011 nonprovisional **EXAMINER** ART UNIT CLASS-SUBCLASS NGUYEN, NGOC YEN M 1734 423-058000 1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363). 2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached. (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required. 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type) PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment. (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY) (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE 4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above) 4a. The following fee(s) are submitted: lssue Fee A check is enclosed. ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted) Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this fo Advance Order - # of Copies \_ (enclose an extra copy of this form). 5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above) ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2). a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Authorized Signature Date Typed or printed name Registration No. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and an apparation. Community is governed by 53 0.3.C. 122 and 57 CFR 1.14. Inis collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/549,594	09/19/2005	Zhikuan Wang	P59008	7722
8439 75	90 02/18/2011	EXAMINER		
ROBERT E. BUSHNELL & LAW FIRM 2029 K STREET NW SUITE 600 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1004			NGUYEN, NGOC YEN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2011

## **Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

## **Privacy Act Statement**

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

- 1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
- 2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
- 3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
- 4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
- 5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
- 6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
- 7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
- 8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
- 9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/549,594 <b>Examiner</b>	WANG ET AL.  Art Unit
•		
	Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen	1734
The MAILING DATE of this communication apperation apperation allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS therewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this a or other appropriate communication. GHTS. This application is subject	application. If not included on will be mailed in due course. <b>THIS</b>
1. This communication is responsive to <u>December 3, 2010</u> .		
2. X The allowed claim(s) is/are 21,22,24,26,27 and 29-32.		
<ul> <li>3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority una)</li> <li>a) All b) Some* c) None of the:</li> <li>1. Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>2. Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents</li> </ul>	been received. been received in Application No.	
International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	cuments have been received in thi	s national stage application from the
* Certified copies not received:		
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" on noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONM THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.  4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submit INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give	ENT of this application.  Itted. Note the attached EXAMINE	R'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") mus	t be submitted.	
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers	• ,	O-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date		
<ul><li>(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date</li></ul>		
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1. each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the		
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT I		
Attachment(s) 1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Notice of Informal	Patent Application
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. ☐ Interview Summa	• •
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<ol> <li>Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date</li> </ol>	7. 🛛 Examiner's Amen	amenvComment
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material		ment of Reasons for Allowance
Nace Ves M Naures	9.	
Ngoc-Yen M Nguyen Primary Examiner Art Unit: 1734		
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## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Yuefei Ma (L0398) on February 11, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A method for producing a high-purity potassium chromate crystal, the method comprising the steps of:

reacting chromite ore in a first aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide with an oxidant to obtain a mixture of potassium hydroxide, potassium chromate, and ferrous residue, wherein the weight of the potassium hydroxide in the mixture first aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide is two to eight times as of the weight of the chromite ore, an the amount of the oxidant is equal to or above a stoichiometric amount of the oxidant required for decomposing chromite ore, water in the reaction is in a range from greater than 0 to 50% by weight of the total amount of reactants, reaction temperature is in a range from 200 °C to 350

°C, and reaction time is in a range from 1 to 20 hours, and said oxidant is air or oxygen;

leaching the mixture with water or a second aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide with a concentration ranged from greater than 0 to 30% by weight, and obtaining to obtain a leached slurry having an a potassium hydroxide content of 30% to 70% by weight; and

separating the leached slurry and obtaining, respectively, to obtain a primary potassium chromate product, ferrous residue, and a third aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide.

22. (Currently amended) The method for producing <u>potassium</u> chromate as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising purifying the primary potassium chromate product to manufacture the <u>a</u> high-purity potassium chromate crystal, wherein the purifying of the primary potassium chromate product further comprises the steps of [[;]]

dissolving the primary potassium chromate product in water or an aqueous solution and obtaining to obtain a primary potassium chromate aqueous solution;

adjusting pH value of the primary potassium chromate aqueous solution to be in a range from 3 to 9 with an acidifying agent, filtering out precipitates generated during the step of adjusting the pH value of the chromate aqueous solution, and obtaining a pure potassium chromate aqueous solution; and

separating potassium chromate from the pure potassium chromate aqueous solution using an evaporation crystallization method by heating the pure potassium chromate aqueous solution to evaporate water from the pure potassium chromate aqueous solution to obtain potassium chromate crystal precipitates and a mother liquor, filtering the potassium chromate crystal precipitates from the mother liquor and drying the potassium chromate crystal precipitates to obtain the high-purity potassium chromate crystal.

23. (cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) The method for producing <u>potassium</u> chromate as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the potassium hydroxide in the first aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide that reacts with the chromite ore comprises potassium hydroxide recycled from the third aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide obtained by the step of separating the leached slurry.

Claim 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) The method for producing <u>potassium</u> chromate as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the aqueous solution used to dissolve the primary potassium chromate product is the mother liquor obtained in the step of

heating separating the pure potassium chromate from the pure potassium chromate aqueous solution.

27. (Currently amended) The method for producing <u>potassium</u> chromate as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the acidifying agent is selected from <del>among at least one of</del> an inorganic acid, an acidic gas, chromium anhydride, potassium dichromate, potassium bicarbonate, and potassium bisulfate;

the inorganic acid is selected from among at least one of sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, and nitric acid; and

the acidic gas is selected from <u>among at least one of</u> carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide.

Claim 28. (Cancelled)

- 29. (Currently amended) The method for producing <u>potassium</u> chromate as claimed in Claim 22, further comprising adjusting the pH value of the primary potassium chromate aqueous solution with the acidifying agent to be in a range of from 5 to 9.
- 30. (Currently amended) The method for producing <u>potassium</u> chromate as claimed in Claim 29, further comprising adjusting the pH value of the primary

potassium chromate aqueous solution with the acidifying agent to be in a range of from 6 to 8.

- 31. (Currently amended) The method for producing <u>potassium</u> chromate as claimed in Claim 21, further <u>comprised of comprising</u> recycling potassium hydroxide from the third aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide obtained by separating the leached slurry, and providing the recycled potassium hydroxide for to the first aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide that reacts with the chromite ore.
- 32. (Currently amended) A method for producing a high-purity potassium chromate crystal, the method comprising the steps of:

reacting chromite ore in a first aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide with an oxidant to obtain a mixture of potassium hydroxide, potassium chromate, and ferrous residue, wherein the weight of the potassium hydroxide in the mixture first aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide is two to eight times as of the weight of the chromite ore, an the amount of the oxidant is equal to or above a stoichiometric amount of the oxidant required for decomposing chromite ore, water in the reaction is in a range from greater than 0 to 50% by weight of the total amount of reactants, reaction temperature is in a range from 200 °C to 350 °C, and reaction time is in a range from 1 to 20 hours, and said oxidant is air or oxygen;

leaching the mixture with water or a second aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide with a concentration ranged from greater than 0 to 30% by weight, and obtaining to obtain a leached slurry having an potassium hydroxide content of 30% to 70% by weight;

separating the leached slurry and obtaining, respectively, to obtain a primary potassium chromate product, ferrous residue, and a third aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide; and

purifying the primary potassium chromate product to manufacture the high-purity potassium chromate crystal, wherein the purifying of the primary potassium chromate product further comprises the steps of [[;]]

dissolving the primary potassium chromate product in water or an aqueous solution and obtaining to obtain a primary potassium chromate aqueous solution;

adjusting pH value of the primary potassium chromate aqueous solution to be in a range from 3 to 9 with an acidifying agent, filtering out precipitates generated during the step of adjusting the pH value of the chromate aqueous solution, and obtaining a pure potassium chromate aqueous solution; and

separating potassium chromate from the pure potassium chromate aqueous solution using an evaporation crystallization method by heating the pure potassium chromate aqueous solution to evaporate water from the pure potassium chromate aqueous solution to obtain potassium

chromate crystal precipitates and a mother liquor, filtering the potassium chromate crystal precipitates from the mother liquor and drying the potassium chromate crystal precipitates to obtain the high-purity potassium chromate crystal.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not disclose or suggest a process for produce potassium chromate using air or oxygen as an oxidant and at a low temperature of from 200-350°C. As stated in the Declaration (filed December 3, 2010), in the process of Okabe '412, when the oxidant is nitrogen oxyacid, higher temperature is required (note item 11).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1356. The examiner can normally be reached on Part time schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emily Le can be reached on (571) 272-0903. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Art Unit: 1734

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1734

nmn February 15, 2011